

**Senate File 306 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 306

BY BEHN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act increasing the penalty for motor vehicles that traverse  
2 certain railroad grade crossings against a gate or signal.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 805.8A, subsection 14, paragraph h, Code  
2 2017, is amended to read as follows:

3 *h. Railroad crossing violations.* For violations under  
4 sections 321.341, 321.342, 321.343, and 321.344, and 321.344B,  
5 the scheduled fine is two hundred dollars. However, for  
6 violations of section 321.341 that occur at a grade crossing  
7 that has a median barrier and that is established as a quiet  
8 zone in accordance with 49 C.F.R. pt. 222, subpt. C, the  
9 scheduled fine is four hundred dollars.

10 EXPLANATION

11 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
12 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13 Currently, Code section 321.341 provides that when a person  
14 driving a vehicle approaches a railroad grade crossing and  
15 a warning is given by automatic signal, crossing gate, or  
16 flag person of the immediate approach of a railroad train  
17 or railroad track equipment, the driver of the vehicle is  
18 required to stop the vehicle within 50 feet but not less than  
19 15 feet from the nearest rail and is prohibited from proceeding  
20 until the driver can do so safely. In addition, the driver  
21 of a vehicle is required to stop the vehicle and not traverse  
22 the grade crossing when the crossing gate is lowered or when  
23 a human flagman gives or continues to give a signal of the  
24 approach or passage of a railroad train or railroad track  
25 equipment. A violation of this provision is punishable by a  
26 scheduled fine of \$200.

27 This bill provides that when a violation of Code section  
28 321.341 occurs at a grade crossing that has a median barrier  
29 and that is established as a quiet zone in accord with federal  
30 law, the violation is punishable by a scheduled fine of \$400.